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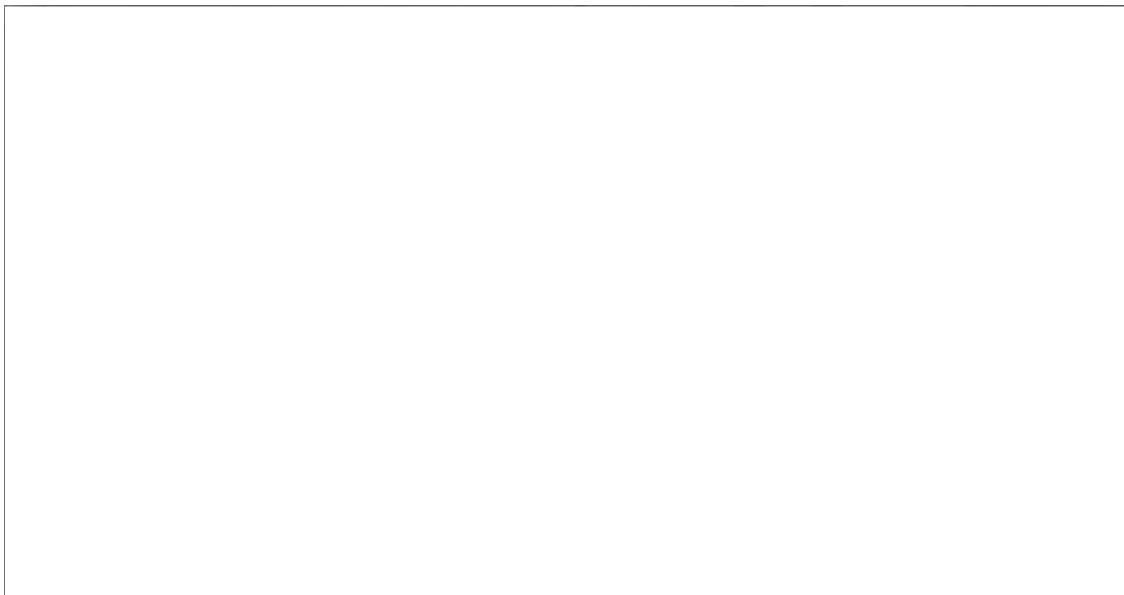
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East Germany - West Germany: Pankow has refused
Bonn's offer to negotiate. (Page 3)



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East Germany - West Germany: Pankow again has assumed a completely negative stance toward negotiations with Bonn.

the East Germans last week rejected an offer from Bonn to negotiate on Berlin matters. Pankow insisted once more that Bonn must sign a treaty recognizing East Germany as a sovereign state and reportedly broke off recently resumed discussions on bilateral transportation and postal matters.

East German motives are not entirely clear. The subject of dealing with Bonn will reportedly be discussed at this week's Warsaw Pact meeting. The East Germans may have thought it necessary to break off contacts with Bonn lest they undercut their argument that other Eastern European states should delay entering into bilateral negotiations with the West Germans.

Pankow's negative attitude poses a difficult dilemma for the new Brandt government, which has made progress in inner-German relations a major objective. It has also apparently produced a clash between Egon Bahr of the Chancellor's office, long a key adviser to Brandt and a major proponent of accommodation with East Germany, and conservative officials in the foreign ministry. In talks with US officials Bahr has criticized the Bonn Group, which is made up of the three Western ambassadors responsible for Allied policy on Berlin and Germany and a West German representative. He was particularly critical of the latter, suggesting that he should perhaps be replaced.

Bahr also took a negative view toward the current Allied attempts to sound out the Soviets on Berlin, questioning that they can be successful in tandem with Bonn's own negotiations with the East.

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